

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

A Business Paper on the Condition of the State.

## A VERY GRATIFYING DOCUMENT

In Which the Wonderful Progress of State Development is Reviewed Figures That Are Almost Startling in Their Significance—Important Recommendations to the Legislature—Various Reforms Suggested. All the State Institutions in Good Condition According to the Governor.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Jan. 9.—Following is an abstract of the message of Gov. MacCorkle to the legislature:

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to lay before you my first biennial message. I extend to you the most cordial welcome, and hope that your service may be pleasant to you as well as conducive to the good of the state.

As directed by the law it is my duty to report to you the condition of the state, and to recommend what legislation I shall deem expedient. I believe the condition of the state to be unexampled in her history. Her finances are in the best condition; her growth in material prosperity is almost without a precedent; her institutions have been managed with an eye single to the good of the state; and if there is any corruption in any official board or state institution it has so far escaped the most rigid investigation. Our sister states look with surprise when they see our wonderful progress on the road to prosperity and wealth. Our own people, who thought they knew, and correctly estimated, our hidden wealth, are amazed when the hands of progress have disclosed to them treasures of which they had not the faintest conception.

New minerals and new oil fields are daily astounding the world with the vast possibilities of wealth within our borders. In nearly all reports the coal area of the state has been placed at sixteen thousand square miles. New discoveries of coal and new investigations place the amount at not less than seventeen thousand square miles.

Upon this vital question of material wealth I will be pardoned for the introduction of specific illustrations.

**OIL DEVELOPMENT.**  
In 1888 the production of oil was 119,418 barrels; in 1892 the oil output of this state, in round numbers, was 3,709,000 barrels, which were sold for \$2,100,000. This is not all! In the amazing increase since that year, well-informed men believe we have seen but a small earnest of the future.

In 1893 the rich stream had swelled into a majestic river. It is difficult for the mind to grasp the increase of nearly five million barrels over 1892, making for the year 1893 about \$4,000,000 barrels, which sold at an average of sixty cents per barrel, and poured into the hands of our people more than \$5,000,000, an increase in clear income of \$3,000,000 in one year.

The report for the year 1894 is not yet made. I am informed, however, that the tabulation for the early months of this year as completed shows that the daily output was 27,000 barrels, which sold at an average of eighty-one cents per barrel, making an average daily yield to our people of \$21,570. At this rate the oil production for West Virginia for 1894 will amount to more than \$8,000,000, showing the enormous increase of \$3,000,000 over 1893, and more than \$5,000,000 over 1892. This production has been accomplished with the rich sands barely touched, and the supposed oil territory scarcely invaded. Our possibilities of production will be more keenly appreciated when it is seen from every possible indication that the oil belt extends from Wetzel and Marion counties, on the northern, to Wayne and Logan, on the southern border.

**AS A COAL STATE.**  
In the production of coal and coke the state has increased her proportionate lead. She is now fourth in coal and second in coke production. As an illustration, Kanawha and Fayette counties alone produced one twenty-seventh (1-27) of the coal mined in the United States. At the present rate of progress, in from three to four years West Virginia will be the third coal producing state; and from five to six years, she will be second, from six to eight years, the proud and rich oil commercial commonwealths of Ohio, Illinois and Pennsylvania must step aside and bow in obedience, whilst our state passes ahead, easily the first in this great commercial race. This is a wonderful increase, when you understand that in 1876 the state was comparatively unknown as a coal producing state, and in that year, there were mined within her borders less than 900,000 tons of coal, but that she produced 1,100,000 in 1877; 1,400,000 tons in 1879; 2,240,000 tons in 1882; 4,000,000 tons in 1886; 6,231,880 tons in 1889; 9,220,000 tons in 1891; 10,705,573 tons in 1893; and, notwithstanding the strike and unprecedented lockouts and the business depression, the state produced 9,425,065 tons in 1894.

**OTHER INDUSTRIES.**  
In the production of coke, unsurpassed in quality, the state is second in the union. Her increase of from 228,000 tons in 1884, to 9,428,035 tons in 1894, is another instance of her vast and varied progress and unlimited capability.

In the production of lumber the state is still maintaining her advanced position. She has the largest body of hardwood in the union, and within her borders is one-third of all the popular timber in the United States. Our annual product is more than 125,000,000 feet of poplar, 75,000,000 feet of hard wood, 50,000,000 feet of spruce, with millions of feet of pine. Notwithstanding this vast out-pour which increases year, we have within our state great forests which never heard the rhythm of the woodman's axe, and scarcely ever the sound of the human voice.

In all of the productions of the farm and manufactory, the state's progress has been most satisfactory and pleasing. Her cities and towns show a very marked and healthy ratio of increase in population, and capital invested in business. The mortgage indebtedness of our people, is, with the exception of a few western states, as low as any state in the union. Our taxes are comparatively low. New enterprises are being undertaken; new railroads are being built, opening up and developing new regions which add their quota to the gathering volume of our trade.

The finances of the state are in better condition than they have ever been during her history. This will be appreciated when we take into consideration the financial troubles into which the country has been plunged for the past year. Notwithstanding this had condition of affairs, to which was added the fact that the last legislature made larger appropriations than were ever before

known, we are able to present the splendid financial statement which follows:

The following statement shows the condition of the state treasury for the two years ending respectively September 30, 1893, and September 30, 1894, with balance belonging to each of these funds at the close of these periods:

Balance in Treasury October 1, 1892, of all funds.....	\$42,601 41
Receipts from all sources during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1893.....	1,614,691 20
Total in the Treasury during the same fiscal year.....	\$1,217,290 61
Amount disbursed for all purposes during the same fiscal year.....	1,537,093 08
Balance in the Treasury October 1, 1894, of all funds.....	\$609,261 63
This balance is made up of the following funds:	
The State Fund.....	\$77,776 93
The General School Fund.....	251,882 49
The School Fund.....	229,704 10
Total.....	\$559,363 52

At the beginning of the fiscal year 1893-94 there was,

In the Treasury the sum of.....	\$609,261 63
Receipts from all sources during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1894.....	1,629,703 47
Total in the Treasury during the same fiscal year.....	\$2,238,965 08
Amount disbursed during the same fiscal year.....	1,496,500 20
Balance in the Treasury October 1, 1894, of all funds.....	\$742,464 87

This balance is made up of the following funds:

The State Fund.....	\$137,186 35
The General School Fund.....	313,653 49
The School Fund.....	291,624 91
Total.....	\$742,464 87

The governor follows with a detailed statement from the auditor of the probable receipts at the treasury for the year ending September 30, 1895, the totals being:

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

For the State Fund.....	\$75,000 00
To which add balance on hand.....	127,138 35
Making a total of.....	\$202,138 35
The estimated charges for that year are.....	\$17,518 86
Leaving a probable balance of.....	\$184,619 49

The estimated receipts for the General School Fund are.....

ginning to see that it does not pay to compete with the purely agricultural country of the west in the raising of large grain. The future success of the West Virginia farmer lies in the raising of the smaller grains, the cultivation of the market products, the fruits and vegetables, and the intelligent preparation of the dairy products for sale. The opening of mine and manufactory in almost every valley will enable him to make the change rapidly and prosperously and will furnish him with a market from which he can garner far more wealth than he could under the old system of the cultivation of the larger area. This board is intelligently introducing this lesson and doing real and substantial good to the farmers of the state. It has adopted new methods; it is publishing a magazine which is widely read and is encouraged as I hope it will be by the legislature the board will render much assistance to our state.

## THE STATE BANK EXAMINER.

The work of this officer is before you. It shows a very healthy state of finances in West Virginia; that no bank failure took place within the state during the panic of 1893, and only one suspension; that the resources of state banks in West Virginia during 1893 amounted to \$12,048,425 84, and resources of national banks for the same period amounted to \$13,497,195 27, making a total of \$25,545,621 11.

I recommend to the legislature that the law relating to the examination and public statements of banks, be revised, so as to make it more nearly conform to the national law. There should be more frequent examinations and more frequent statements of condition, and they should not be made at the stated time set out by the law, but should be made, when, in the opinion of the examiner, it would seem best, restricting the examination and statement to not more than four times a year. I heartily approve the sensible and business like recommendations of this officer.

## THE LABOR BUREAU.

The very able report of the commissioner of labor is before you. I believe it to be one of the most valuable and thorough reports ever made in the state. I hope the legislature will increase the contingent fund of this office to at least \$1,200. The bureau is necessary to the state, and to obtain the information required a larger sum is really necessary. The amount now allowed is entirely inadequate, and to obtain the information given in the report the commissioner has expended one-third of his salary. By reason of there being no statistics heretofore collected, or information obtained, the commissioner has been compelled to commence the work from the very beginning. Numerous, and in fact daily, inquiries are made from every section of the country at the executive office for this information, which, for the first time within this state, has been intelligently collected. In this era of progress in West Virginia this careful, accurate and painstaking information will be of incalculable aid to the state. I hope it will be the pleasure of the legislature to enable the commissioner to complete within his term the work which he has mapped out as necessary to be done.

## MINE INSPECTORS.

I submit the reports of the mine inspectors. By reason of the strike of last year and the general stagnation in business there was a falling off in the production of coal and coke. This falling off is only temporary. The outlook for the state in the coal industry is most promising and the coming year bids very fair to be a good year. I have to a sufficient extent already discussed this industry and as the inspectors' reports go into every detail, it will not be necessary for me to say anything further about it.

## THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Our progress in education has been remarkable. As this is a question of such vital importance to our people, and as we expend three-fifths of the taxes upon our schools, I ask your consideration, at some length, of the school question.

In 1870 the average rate of levy for school and building purposes was 30 and .06 cents on the \$100. In 1894 it was 30 and .12 cents. Any system under which such a showing as this can be made is not a poor one. In the main features, our system is a good one, but it has been added to, amended and changed, in so many ways, by the various legislatures, that it is ambiguous in its details, obscure in its operations, unjust, and very often unduly cumbersome. I believe that the whole school law should be intelligently and comprehensively revised as a whole. I do not believe that the isolated amendments will reach the objections to it.

In the matter of school supervision the law is virtually ineffective. The schools have grown so numerous that legitimate supervision of them by the superintendent is almost farcical. In the first place, the pay of the county superintendent is utterly inadequate and, he, in effect, does nothing and can do nothing. To do the work required of him at his time for the whole year. In the second place, the county superintendent is amenable to no one, and no one can displace him, or compel him to do his duty. He should be amenable to, and under the supervision of, some higher power having power to remove him for neglect of duty.

Again, the district levy is the unit of taxation. Very often this produces inequality and absolute unfairness in the same county. Let the county levy be the unit of taxation. This will produce longer schools all over the state, and better pay for the teachers and bear equally on all parts of the county. This subject is of great importance, as three-fourths of our children receive their education in these district or village schools.

Again, the independent school district has gotten to be an abuse, and virtually defeats the fundamental constitutional idea of the law which says "The legislature shall provide by a general law a thorough and efficient system of free schools." The process by which these independent school districts are brought into existence is simply the abuse of the power which the richer part of the county has over the poorer part thereof. The voters of a rich community holding the voting power of the district, selfishly form a district to themselves and exclude from its benefits those who happen to live across the line, in the poorer section of the district. Thus, the richer portion of the district divides itself from the rest of the district and uses for its own selfish interests the improvements which in all likelihood have been given it by the outlying country. In a majority of instances, the independent district system is opposed to the honest and equal advance of the free schools, and is wrong and selfishly unjust to a large part of the people who pay taxes.

This independent district system is entirely unjust to the poorer parts of the state, and this proposition very largely applies to the whole free school system. The rich cities and counties virtually receive the benefits from the free school system whilst the poorer

counties are left out. This is not right. The system should be as universal as possible.

The governor here submits a table from the school report showing the apparent injustice of the system.

## NORMAL SCHOOLS.

The report of the normal schools is before you. The report goes into careful detail, and shows the work done, and the estimates for appropriations. The work of the normal schools seems to have been well done, and no department of the state government should have greater encouragement. The number of pupils attending last year was 1,055. The amount expended in the administration of these schools, was \$20,250.

## OTHER MATTERS.

The governor reviews at length the work of the historical society, and West Virginia's part in the World's Fair, congratulating the state on the fact that the showing made there has been of untold advantage in attracting the attention of the outside world to her resources. He recommends an appropriation for a proper state exhibit at the Baltimore centennial exposition in 1897.

He calls attention to the great increase in criminal charges and says: From my some time experience in the practice of criminal law, I am of opinion, that the excessive criminal charges largely result from the following reasons: Many justices of the peace, and constables have a custom of instituting felony cases, which are not in fact felony cases, but which are small misdemeanors, and upon trial the verdict of the jury will be for misdemeanor. This result is well known at the time the cases are instituted and the felony charge was made for the purpose of making large costs payable out of the state treasury. This is done in a vast number of instances. In some cases there is no ground for the charge even, before the justice, and the costs are charged. In many instances it is plain collusion between the justice of the peace and the constable, and it is well known that the charge cannot be sustained even before the justice. The above described practices alone cost the state thousands of dollars, and they are the chief causes of the large criminal charges. The remedy is to enact legislation providing that under a justice's commitment, an indictment and trial in the circuit court for felony and a verdict for misdemeanor, that these costs should not be payable out of the state treasury. This will have a two-fold effect. In the first case, the small misdemeanor costs will not pay the parties engaged in this practice. In the second place, the costs being paid by the county, these people will be more careful in instituting criminal proceedings as the charges are to be paid out of the county and they will be deterred from this practice by the fact that the people interested in county matters will resent this action, and will look after those who add to the burdens of the county which are the burdens most plainly seen and understood. Another potent cause of large criminal charges is the conveyance of criminals to the penitentiary by the sheriffs. This will aggregate in a year a very large sum. The sheriff has a good allowance for each prisoner so conveyed. He has costs, fees, and expenses, largely in excess of the actual cost of the transportation of the prisoner, and in a large county, one of the greatest emoluments of the sheriff arises from the conveyance of prisoners to the penitentiary.

Again, the stenographers of the criminal courts have been used to an extent never contemplated by the law making powers. In some circuits, every case, no matter how unimportant, and when there is no possibility of its being carried to a higher court, is reported, charged for, and paid for by the state. I am informed that in one circuit the stenographer receives greater emolument than the judge who presides. At the rate this practice is going the court stenographers will next year cost the state ten thousand dollars.

## NATIONAL GUARD.

Governor MacCorkle reviews at length the part taken by the state militia during the strikes the past year, and gives a complete history of these occurrences. He commends the action of the troops. Of the national guard he says, in part:

The present militia law is utterly insufficient. It does not give sufficient power to compel discipline, and it is utterly ineffective in all of the requirements of enlistment and of punishment for the infraction of military duty. This is very hurtful to real discipline, and prevents the guard attaining that degree of discipline demanded by the service. A new law is necessary. To that end, a military board has convened, and has formulated a law, which, with some minor changes, will be laid